

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 051426Z APR 74

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

CINCUSNAVEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 2614

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER CAUTIONS GREECE OVER  
AEGEAN AND CYPRUS

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: ANKARA 2566

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE HASAN ISIK SAID  
TURKEY IS CONTINUING TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF ITS  
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DIFFERENCES WITH GREECE OVER THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS, BUT

WARNED THAT IF GREECE CONTINUES ITS PRESENT POLICY,  
"UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS" MIGHT TAKE PLACE. END SUMMARY.

1. ISIK, ANSWERING QUESTIONS BEFORE THE MIXED BUDGET COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 3 (SEE REFTEL), SAID TURKEY HAD BEEN LATE TO APPRECIATE THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN, BUT NOW WOULD NOT COMPROMISE WITH GREECE OVER TURKEY'S RIGHTS IN THE AREA. HE SAID HE EXPECTS THE MATTER TO BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, BUT "TURKEY'S EFFORTS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION SHOULD BE SHARED BY THE OTHER SIDE TOO. THE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN ARE SIX MILES FOR US. GREECE HAS ISLANDS VERY CLOSE TO OUR MAINLAND. THE TWO SIDES SHOULD COME TOGETHER AND REESTABLISH THE FRONTIERS."

2. ISIK SAID THAT A PROLONGED DISPUTE OVER THE AEGEAN, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY A BUILD-UP OF DEFENSE FORCES, WOULD HARM BOTH COUNTRIES ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET, ISIK ALSO SAID: "IF GREECE SHOULD CONTINUE WITH HER PRESENT STANCE CERTAIN UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS CAN AUTOMATICALLY TAKE PLACE. I CANNOT HELP REMINDING GREECE THAT SHE SHOULD ACT AT LEAST AS CAREFULLY AS TURKEY IS DOING."

3. REGARDING REPORTS OF GREEK ARMAMENTS BUILD-UPS, ISIK SAID DEFINITE INFORMATION WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN, BUT "I CAN SAY THIS, GREECE HAS RUN HER ACTIVITIES WITHOUT REALIZING THAT SHE COULD ANGER TURKEY. BUT SHE HAS NOT DROPPED HER STANCE. THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF HER STANCE IS THAT SHE ACTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF TURKEY, RATHER THAN PROVOKING TURKEY."

4. ISIK SAID THAT WHILE A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN FOUND AS FAST AS TURKEY WOULD HAVE LIKED, THE SITUATION THERE WAS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE PREVIOUS PERIODS OF TENSION IN 1963 AND 1976 (WHEN TURKEY AND GREECE ALMOST WENT TO WAR OVER THE CYPRUS QUESTION).  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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